The Barber Papers

U. S. MATERIAL

A small part of the Barber papers are related to U.S. matters only. Though limited in depth, the documents involved include several items of substantial interest in a variety of contexts.

1) William Barber's tickets to the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson in 1868.

2) A letter from Linderman (Director of the Mint) to William Barber, discussing the medal for the ship Metis, the obverse of which Charles E. Barber had recently completed (1875).

3) A letter from Linderman to Charles E. Barber, thanking him for a bronze bust of Col. Fair (one of the major partners in the famous Comstock Lode, and Senator from Nevada in the 1880's) (1876).

4) A letter from Frank A. Leach, Director of the Mint, to C.E. Barber, concerning the fine reception by the public of the "Great White Fleet" medal that C.E. Barber had engraved in 1909.

5) A letter from Frank A. Leach to C.E. Barber, including a clipping from the Washington Times, commenting favorably on Barber's recent portrait medal of Secretary Cortelyou (1909).

6) A letter from George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint, to C.E. Barber, praising Barber's recent "Virginia Presidents" medal set in silver, sent to the White House in 1913.

7) A telegram from Victor D. Brenner to C.E. Barber, requesting Barber to make a new die of the Lincoln medal, 1909.

8) A letter from A.A. Weinmann to C.E. Barber, discussing progress and problems in the development of the Mercury Dime and the Liberty Walking Half Dollar in 1916.

9) A letter from Weinmann to C.E. Barber, discussing further progress on the Dime and Half Dollar, 1916.

10) A list made by C.E. Barber of the number of obverse and reverse dies made and delivered for the 1893 Columbian Expo Award Medal, dies delivered over the date range 1894 through 1895.

11) A letter from Andrew F. West, Secretary of the Princeton Sesquicentennial Committee, to C.E. Barber, discussing completion and acceptance of the medals, and setting October 1, 1896, for completion of striking and delivery of the entire order; West also specifies the number of pieces to be struck in each of the metals employed, and he included a detailed copy of Barber's bill for the job; he also thanked Barber shortly after the early strike of the medal sent to him.

12) A letter from Ephraim (last name illegible, possibly Linstrom), to C.E. Barber re manufacture of the die for a Harvard award medal in 1902; includes 11 pages and 2 drawings of possible reverse designs; the letters are full of suggestions and demands concerning details.

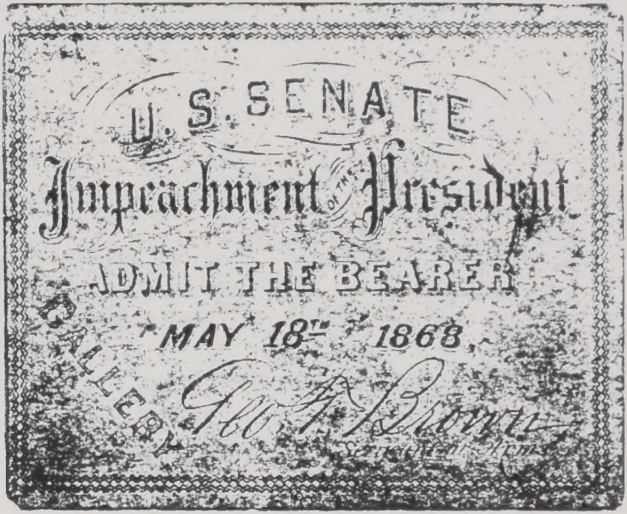
13) Sketch by Barber for the obverse of the Detroit Museum of Art medal (which Barber made).

14) 1877 pencil drawing of a pattern Half Dollar reverse, the design of Judd 1524.

15) Drawing (and a metal example) of an elaborate Mormon coat of arms.

16) A large portrait photograph of President McKinley, intended as the model for the obverse of a McKinley commemorative Silver Dollar (a plan later changed to a commemorative Gold Dollar, more appropriate).

17) A letter from Frank A. Hutson, a Brooklyn lawyer, to Barber in 1907, canceling an order for a commemorative medal intended for a testimonial dinner in Brooklyn, which had been abandoned due to the financial situation in the Borough of Brooklyn.



William Barber's tickets to the impeachment trial of
President Andrew Johnson

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

Oct 28, 1876.

Wm Barber Esq,

My dear Sir,

I have received your kind favor of yesterday also the finished Bronze Medal ... executed by Charles Barber Esq. which is certainly the finest work of the kind that has ever come under my notice.

I am daily expecting the Photographs of Col Fair. This latter work will show Charleys skill in a section of country where individuals are acquiring riches with the same ardor of art works ... I think it may lead to orders from that section.

With thanks for the kindness of yours & those I remain Truly

H R Linderman

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

July 21, 1876.

Dear Charley,

Thanks for the fine Bronze head of Col Fair. The Artistic Work is first class & reflects credit on those executing it

When I come over I must insist on compensating You for this Work.

Yours Truly

H R Linderman

Medals - fleet departure

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

Washington,
January 20, 1909.

Mr. Charles E. Barber,
Engraver, United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Penna.

My dear Mr. Barber:

In order that the President might be advised of the success attending the issue of the "Fleet Medal," I wrote him on the 19th instant, in substance as follows:

> My dear Mr. President:
>
> It is with great satisfaction and pleasure that I report to you the success of the first effort to carry into effect your suggestion for popularizing public interest in medalic art. The issue of the "Fleet Medal" has met with a very warm receiption. We have received an order for thirty from Milwaukee, and an order for twenty-five from one of the Washington Banks, as well as several orders of from three to five, and scores of single orders.
>
> I enclose a sample letter for a second order and also some sample newspaper clippings, which will tend to prove that the citizens of our country can be interested in art productions of this kind.

I received a letter in reply saying that the result was very pleasing to the President. Inasmuch as you have been such a prominent factor in securing this result, you should know these facts. I enclose herewith the letter and clippings above referred to. You may keep the clippings, if desired, but please return the letter for our files.

With the kindest regards, I am,

Yours truly,

Frank A Leach

Director of the Mint.

FALs

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

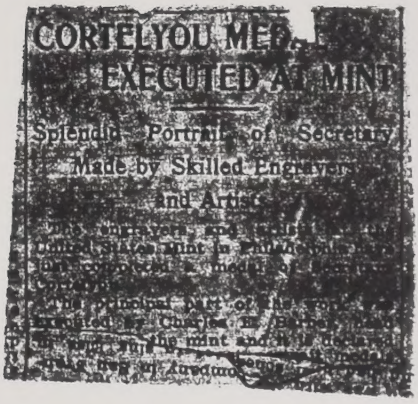
Washington,

Feb 8 04

My Dear Mr Barber

I cut the enclosed clipping out of the Washington Times as it will undoubtedly interest you

Yours truly
Frank A Leach


CORTELYOU MED...
EXECUTED AT MINT
Splendid Portrait of Secretary
Made by Skilled Engraver...
and Artist

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1913.

Dear Mr. Barber:

The set of Virginia Presidents' medals arrived in good season to be placed in a suitable case and delivered at the White House. The gift is a notable one in appearance and Assistant Secretary Williams is greatly pleased over its success. We all appreciate your interest and efficiency in getting the medals to us so promptly.

Respectfully,

Director of the Mint.

Mr. Charles E. Barber,
Engraver, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Form No. 168.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

24,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

ROBERT C. CLOWRY, President and General Manager.

RECEIVED at 1365 Ridge Ave. Money Transmitted by Telegraph & Cable. Phone Poplar 797.

45P NI S 10 Paid

Mw NewYork May 4th 09

Chas E Barber,
U S Mint.

Please sink another die of the lincoln at my expense. Brenner

1238 M.

The Buffalo Club
1867

June 6. 1916.

Dear Mr. Barber

I have today sent by express the remaining three large models for the Half Dollar and the Dime. These should have reached you long before this date, but unfortunately I had been delayed by the foundry having trouble with the first cast which made necessary another set of casts, as well as new plaster

models. The casts sent you are very good, as you will see, with the exception of the obverse of the half dollar, which has a slight imperfection at the edge. Please inform me whether that can be plucked up so as not show in the reduction

I expect to be here for another ten days, but will make a special trip to see the reduction you will make, before my return to New York, if you so advise me.

Very truly yours

A. A. Weinman

ADOLPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN
441 West 21st Street, New York City

July 18, 1916.

Mr. Charles E. Barber, Engraver
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Barber

I am sending you today by parcels post the bronze cast of the reverse of the Dime. I have straightened the lettering and have slightly simplified the foliage of the olive branch. The obverse for the Dime is now being cast in bronze and should be in your hands within a few days, if the bronze cast turns out satisfactory. I have also made the lettering stronger on this model.

The obverse for the Half Dollar is now being reduced, after I had made certain modifications with Mr. Woolley's consent and I am now busy with the reverse.

I am much troubled about the polished background of the two coins I have here. The reflection from the polished surface is so intense that one cannot get a calm impression of the design at all. Mr. Woolley agrees

ADOLPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN
441 West 21st Street, New York City

with me that the background of these coins should not be polished and I would greatly appreciate an expression of opinion from you in the matter.

Will you also kindly inform me when both dies for the Dime have been completed and a sample coin struck, with dull surface, and I will come over & see them.

Yours very truly
A. A. Weinman

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

Engraver's Department,

Nov 26th, 1894

Dies for the Columbian Award Medal delivered as follows

	Obv.	Rev.
Nov 26. 1894	1	1
Dec 18. 1894		1
Feb 19. 1895	1	
Mar 13 1895		1
April 27 1895	1	1
May 10 1895	1	1
June 28 1895	1	1
July 22 1895	1	1
Oct 11 1895 Jessup steel	1	1
Nov 4 1895 returned Nov 29/95 too rounded in hardening		
Dec 5 1895	1	

Princeton N.J.
June 13. 1896

My dear Sir –

I have seen and hereby accept the dies for the Princeton Memorial Medal.

I also authorize you to strike

500 copies in bronze

and

25 copies in silver

to be delivered home in Princeton on or by October 12th 1896

Andrew F. West
Secretary Sesquicentennial Committee

To Hon. Charles E. Bowen
United States Mint

No. 18. TREASURY DEPARTM

Dies $350.00

500 Bronze medals @ $2.00 each 1000.00

20 Silver " @ 8.50 " 170.00

520 Cases @ 0.94 488.80

1 " $2008.80

94

2000.94

Cost of gold medal $ 0.325

South Millbrook
Duchess Co N.Y.
Sept 4th /96

Mr C. E. Barber
U.S. Mint Phila

Dear Sir
The copy of the Princeton Medal which you kindly sent me has been received and much admired by my friends. Thanking you very sincerely for your courtesy
faithfully Yours
Thomas Shields Clarke

00
00
00
80
80
4
4
$ 325.00

Cambridge, Mass. June 26, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

The die seems to give entire satisfaction. It is certainly a great improvement over the old one. I understand that the charge for the work so far is $200.00. If you will make out a bill to Harvard College and send it to me, I will forward it to the Treasurer.

Am I right in thinking that you will undertake to store the die, and to make the medals ~~at the prices you have named~~ me as they may be called for, including the work of incising the names and dates? Have you facilities for doing this latter part of the work in the best manner? The prices you have named to me for striking the medals I did not understand to include the cost of the incising.

Very sincerely yours

Ephraim Emerton.

Please note that there is to be a period after each word except at the end of a line, and that this period is to be half way up, not at the bottom of the line. AE coming together are to be written separately, not joined. We have reckoned that the additions would just about balance the omissions. The space for date must be large enogh so that the characters may be the Roman, not the Italic. The name of the prize winner is to be in full and is to have a line to itself. I suppose you can supply this part of the work also as it is needed. The inscription on the reverse is to follow in general the circular form as before.

In your letter you speak of possible improvements. We should be glad to hear what you have in mind, for no doubt your experience will be of substantial help to us. Can you let me have some preliminary draft of the die to show that you have got our ideas and also embodying your own suggestions?

Very sincerely yours

Edward Everett.

P.S. Will you kindly let me know what will be your charge for furnishing the medals complete in a suitable case, in gold, silver and bronze.

E.E.

Cambridge, March 26, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

The drawing you sent us is certainly an improvement. The wreaths show up much better. Would you kindly make another drawing of the reverse or change this one so as to make the following changes. In place of the date put Q·B·F·F At the bottom, where the B·M now is, put in a specimen date in Roman figures as for example MDCCCCXXVIII; curving this to follow the line of the circle. Then just above this put the B·M We thought there would be ample room for all this, but, if necessary the figures of the date could be made a trifle smaller.

As to type, the style we should like is given in Huebner's Exempla epigraphica, page LXXX, number IV. If you have not this work doubtless you could get it from the University of Pennsylvania or elsewhere. It is the standard work on the subject.

In sending this drawing will you also kindly reply to the inquiries in my last about price of completed medals and oblige

Yours very truly

Ephraim Emerton.

Cambridge, April 17, 1902.

C.E.Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 14th:- I enclose a tracing of the alphabet in question, but I should hardly like to trust this as a model. I sent the first tracing only as a suggestion, to see whether you had anything on hand that would come near it. We are prepared to pay the extra twenty-five dollars to have these letters. In fact I trust you understand that we want the best and expect to pay for it.

It occurs to me that your difficulty in finding the book of specimens may have arisen from the fact that it forms a volume, a supplementary one (Auctarium) in the collection known as the "Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum". If it is so catalogued the attendant might have overlooked it. We can hardly believe that th the classical department of the University of Pennsylvania is without

so well known and important a work, and I venture to ask that you will make one more attempt to get it there. If you fail to do so, our library will send it to you by express for a time long enough for you to make a proper copy. I cannot call mine a proper one. The reference is page LXXX, No. IV.

Very truly yours

Ephraim Emerton.

P. S. Please let me know as soon as you get this matter of the letter straight.

E. E.

Cambridge, March 26, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

The drawing you sent us is certainly an improvement. The wreaths show up much better. Would you kindly make another drawing of the reverse or change this one so as to make the following changes. In place of the date put Q·B·F·F At the bottom, where the B·M now is, put in a specimen date in Roman figures as for example MDCCCCXXVIII; curving this to follow the line of the circle. Then just above this put the B·M We thought there would be ample room for all this, but, if necessary the figures of the date could be made a trifle smaller.

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In sending this drawing will you also kindly reply to the inquiries in my last about price of completed medals and oblige

Yours very truly

Ephraim Lederer.

Cambridge, February 12, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 3d. inst.: I have not been able to get our committee together recently, but expect to do so in the immediate future and shall then probably have something definite to report on the subject of the medal.

Thanking you for your information so far I am

Very sincerely yours

E. Vernon Rhoades.

Cambridge, April 9, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose a tracing of the letters in the specimen I referred to. It is not a very accurate one but w serve to give you an idea of the style. You will notice especiall the slant of the O and Q. Is there any reason why the letters cannot be cut in the die in the same way as the rest of the medal?

Very truly yours

E Sherman Ernestine.

Cambridge, March 19, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of February 3:- We should like to have you make the die for the Bowdoin medal at the price you name-$150.00. There are certain slight changes we should want, but we do not wish to have the general character of the die changed. The work on the face seems to be well done, but that on the reverse strikes us as positively shabby. We are assuming that you can greatly improve upon this in quality of work.

The inscriptions on the two sides are to be as follows:

Cambridge, April 4, 1902.

Charles E. Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

I understood that the name and date would have to be engraved on each medal separately.

In regard to the type to be used, before making a decision I should like to know what it would cost to have letters made from the pattern I suggested to you. The book could be sent on from here if necessary. We want this thing done right and are expecting to pay what is necessary if it does not seem extravagant. The letters you sent are not bad as English letters. Our classical people however do not consider any English letters to

If you think it safer perhaps it would be well to make a final drawing showing exact spacing.

Very truly yours

Ephraim Segerstrom

Cambridge, April 25, 1902.

C.E.Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose the two drawings, which I thought I had sent back some time ago. You will see what I meant in my note of yesterday. The first drawing of the reverse gives a more symmetrical effect, but I take it you can produce the same effect in the second by a little change of spacing as I suggested yesterday.

Very sincerely yours

Ephraim Emerton.

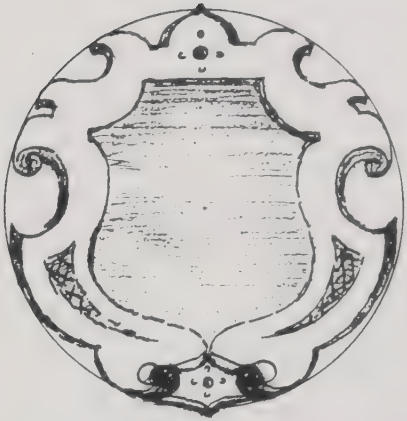
Cambridge, April 23, 1902.

Charles E.Barber Esq.

Dear Sir:-

The Harvard College Library sent you yesterday by American Express the volume in question. Please return it as soon as you can make the necessary use of it.

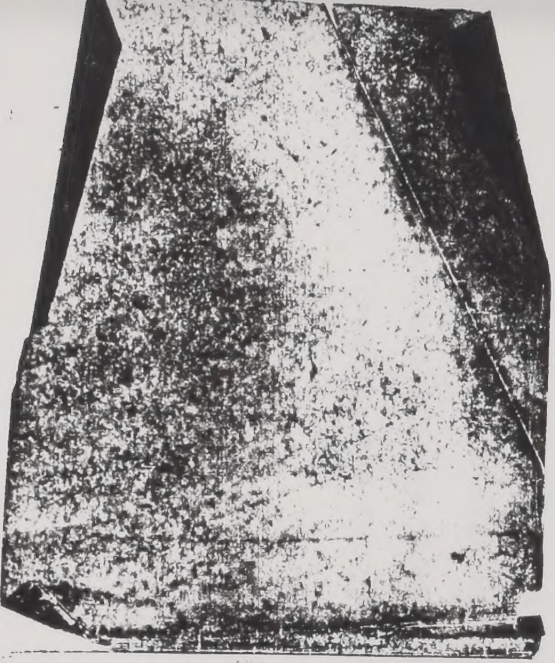
If you can reproduce these letters I see no reason why you cannot go ahead with the medal, using the design you submitted last. I assume that the distribution of space vertically was not intended to be permanent. It seemed to crowd the upper part and leave the lower part too open.

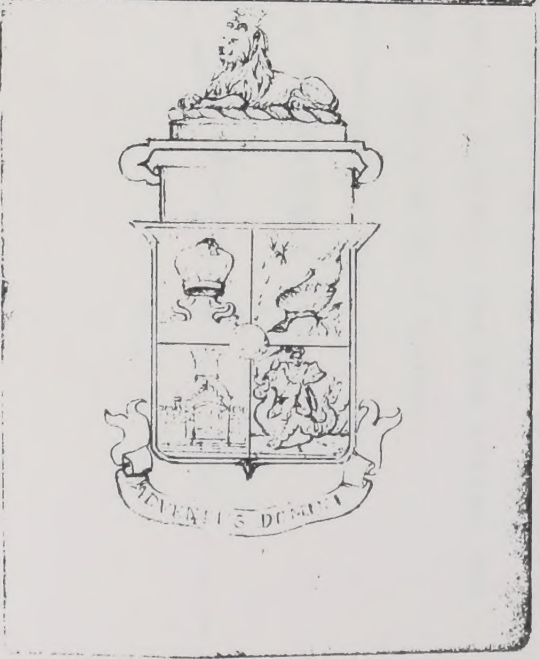


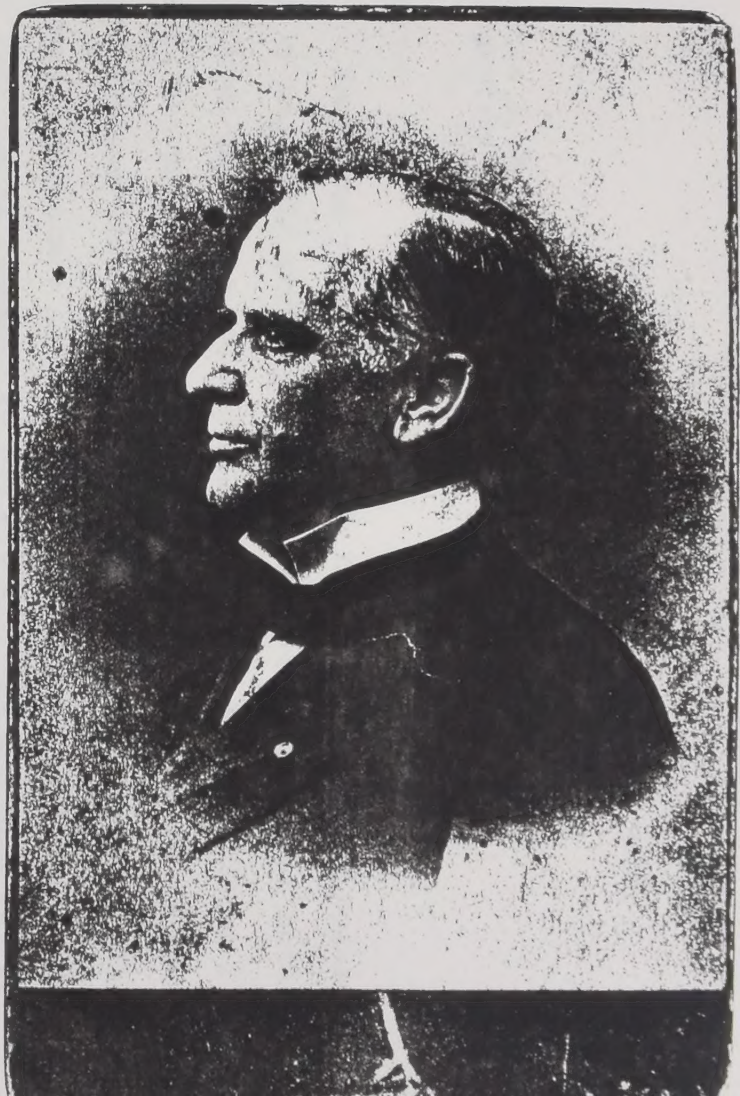
The date is to be engraved in each time

No 1

The preparation of a die according to the above design & drawing is hereby authorized. The preparation of the [illegible] which the [illegible] may find reasons or deem [illegible] may be made. H. R. Linderman
Director







FRANK A. HUTSON
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
150 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE 5414 BEEKMAN

November 21st, 1907.

Mr. Charles E. Barber,
Engravers Department,
U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

Dear Sir:-

Answering yours of the 16th inst., in regard to medals ordered by me, would advise you that last evening we had a meeting of the Dinner Committee and decided that owing to the present financial condition in the Borough of Brooklyn, that it would be absolutely necessary for the present to postpone the Dinner. Therefore I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a check for all that can be returned or for all that was not used out of my deposit so that I can return it to our Committee.

You might also send me the dies as it is the intention to take up the Dinner as soon as there is a change for the better and we will undoubtedly use them within three or four months.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Frank Hutson